

## Annual Timeline

Open Application Period  
(April – June)

Application Review and Selection  
(July – September)

Applicants Notified  
(October, November)

Team Assesses Farm Operation;  
Makes Recommendations  
(November – March)

Business Planning Completed  
(February – April)

Contracts Executed  
(March – May)

Farmer Receives Grant Payment  
(March – June)

## For More Information

### Contact:

Kate Hayes  
Department of Agricultural Resources  
101 University Drive, Suite C4  
Amherst, MA 01002  
[Mega.Coordinator@gmail.com](mailto:Mega.Coordinator@gmail.com)  
Telephone: (413) 665-1050

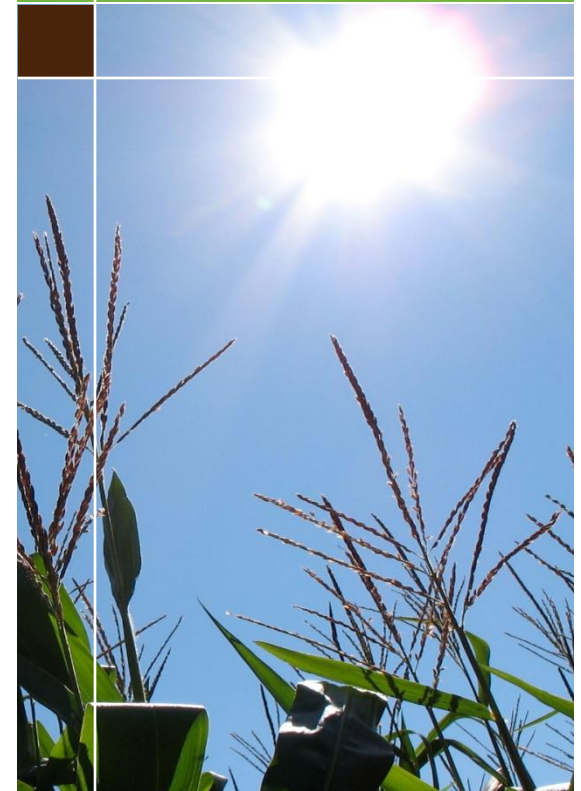


Funding Subject to Availability

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02114  
[www.mass.gov/agr/programs/mega](http://www.mass.gov/agr/programs/mega)

## Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture

Assisting New and Beginning Farms  
with Technical Assistance,  
Business Planning, and Capital



# Purpose

The Massachusetts Matching Enterprise Grants for Agriculture Program (MEGA) assists new and beginning farms with start up and expansion costs. By providing technical assistance, mentoring, business planning, and capital, MEGA looks to support new farmers and new farm businesses essential to the future of farming in Massachusetts.

The objective of MEGA is to assist farmers whose goal is to raise agricultural products and develop their farms into commercially viable operations.

Maximum funding provided by this program is \$10,000 as a one time matching grant. Use of funds is limited to fixed capital improvements and equipment that will enhance the viability of the farm. Funding may not be used to purchase land, pay debt, or for normal operating costs or overhead.

In order to receive funding farmers must participate in a technical assistance and business planning process that identifies improvements strategies that will be implemented with program funds.



## Eligibility

Any Massachusetts farmer who has been engaged in agriculture for one to five years and has direct farm experience or has successfully completed a farm planning and business training, or has completed a business plan is eligible to apply.

Applications will be evaluated based on published criteria which may include:

- ❑ Have a potential to expand with the infusion of additional technical support and capital
- ❑ Demonstrates a knowledge of agricultural production and marketing
- ❑ Identifies opportunities for continued growth and success
- ❑ Shows a reversible risk of discontinuing operations by participation in program
- ❑ Shows barriers to farm operations and addresses issues to improve

## Process

A Request for Response (RFR) is published by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) describing the program criteria and application process.

The applicant submits a completed application form and any required documents.

MDAR reviews submitted applications and selects farms based on published criteria.

The farmer participates in a technical assistance and business planning process that identifies improvement strategies that will be implemented with program funds and matching funds from the farmer.

The farm's financial records, management practices, equipment, buildings, and natural resources are assessed.

Based on the farm's assessment, the team makes recommendations for improving the viability of the farm.

Farmer signs contract with MDAR agreeing to use funds for recommended actions.

Farmer receives grant funds.

